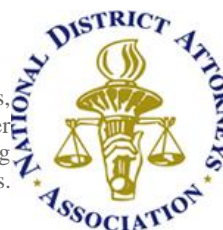




**January 14, 2016 — Volume 5**

The National District Attorneys Association, the voice of America's prosecutors, sponsors the Articles of Interest series and is partnering with Prosecutors' Center for Excellence to improve the criminal justice system and to address emerging issues.



## **Did You Know?**

In addition to the *Articles of Interest* Series, occasional articles entitled "Did You Know?" will be distributed. These articles will feature a particular topic with a short explanation, along with source materials that provide detailed information. Please send suggestions for "Do You Know?" articles that might be of interest.

## **Body Worn Cameras – Tips for Prosecutors**

Police departments around the country are purchasing body worn cameras (BWC) at an accelerating pace. Prosecutors should get involved in this process as early as possible. Here is a brief overview of some of the issues prosecutors may consider. Also attached is a selection of model policies, articles and reports that provide more detailed information.

- **Who is Using BWC?** Reach out to your police departments.
  - Are they buying body worn cameras?
  - Are different departments using different technologies?
  - Are they developing different policies?
- **BWC Policy:** Get involved in the development of the BWC policy.
  - When should the officer record?
  - Are the recordings tagged with incident or arrest information and if so, how?
  - How and when does the prosecutor get access to the recordings?
  - Where and how are the recordings stored and for how long?
- **Discovery and Evidence:** Develop procedures within a prosecutor's office.
  - Who will gather and review the recordings?
  - How does a recording get associated with an arrest?
  - When and how are the recordings turned over to the defense?
  - When and how can a recording be redacted?
- **Funding:** What additional costs will BWC impose on the prosecutor's office? Possible costs include:
  - Personnel for viewing and redacting
  - Equipment for viewing, storing and redacting
  - Licensing fees for viewing and storing

- **Stakeholder Meetings:** Consider convening stakeholder meetings about BWC.
  - Prosecutors can lead meetings with law enforcement, victim groups, courts, defense, community groups and/or elected officials to discuss BWC.
- **Freedom of Information Laws and Release of Recordings:**
  - Assess how to respond to a freedom of information request for a recording.
  - When should recordings be released to the public?

## Additional Materials

### BWC Summit Flier:

CDA National Body Cam Technology & Policy Summit and Expo

*California District Attorneys Association* (February 22-24, 2016, Anaheim California) [Read](#)

### Articles by Prosecutors:

Model Body Worn Camera Policy for Police: An Aid for Prosecutors

*California District Attorneys Association and Prosecutors' Center for Excellence* (7/14/2015) [Read](#)

Body-Worn Cameras: A Report for Law Enforcement

*The Colorado Best Practices Committee for Prosecutors* (February 2015) [Read](#)

Use of Body-Worn Cameras by Law Enforcement: Considerations, Issues and Concerns

*Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Best Practices Committee* (12/3/2015) [Read](#)

These Are the Police Body Camera Questions State and Local Stakeholders Must Address Quickly

*Route Fifty* (9/20/2015) [Read](#)

What Body Camera Data Should Police Collect and When?

*Route Fifty* (10/15/2015) [Read](#)

With Body-Worn Cameras, Here Comes the Hard Part

*Route Fifty* (11/23/2015) [Read](#)

### Technical Resources:

Bureau of Justice Assistance BWC Tool Kit: <https://www.bja.gov/bwc/>

For the Record: Understanding the Technology Behind Body Worn Cameras

*Digital Communities* (September 2015) [Read](#)

### Articles by Other Groups:

A Model Act for Regulating the Use of Wearable Body Cameras by Law Enforcement

*ACLU* (May 2015) [Read](#)

Police Body Cam Footage: Just Another Public Record

*Abrams Institute* (December 2015) [Read](#)

Mayor Rawlings-Blake's Working Group on the Use and Implementation of Body-Worn Cameras

*City of Baltimore* (2/18/2015) [Read](#)

*These articles and more are available in the National Resource Center for Prosecutors ([www.NRCFP.com](http://www.NRCFP.com)) which resides on Prosecutors' Encyclopedia (PE). The NRCFP is a resource that contains thousands of articles on topics impacting prosecutors, including ethics, technological developments, social science, innovative law enforcement practices, and evolving trends in crime. To access these resources, go to [www.NRCFP.com](http://www.NRCFP.com) and log in to request an account.*

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For membership and program information, please visit NDAA's Website at: <http://www.ndaa.org> NDAA is located in Alexandria, Virginia, 703.549.9222.